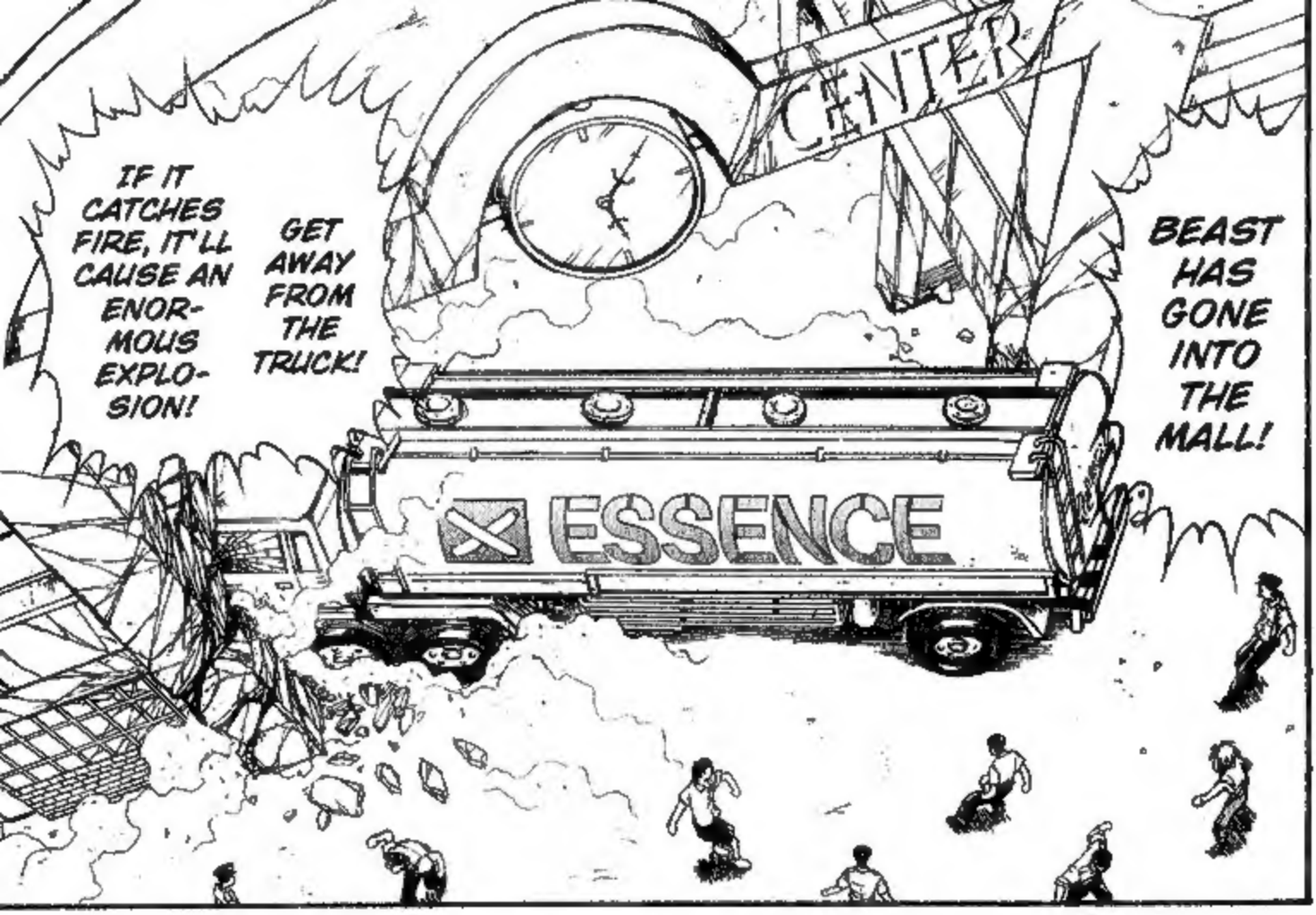
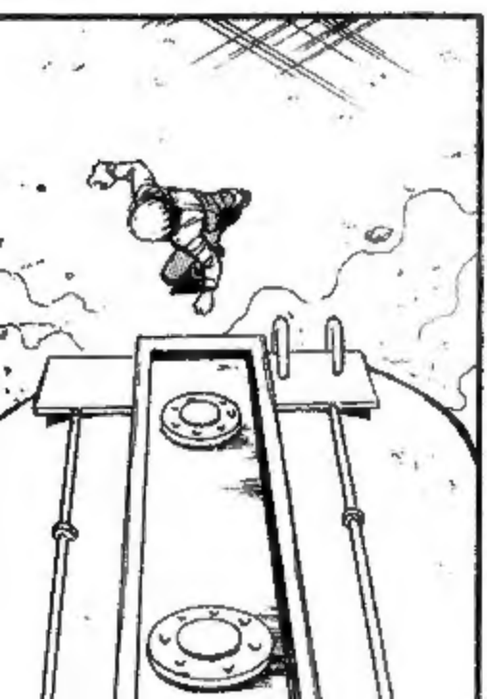
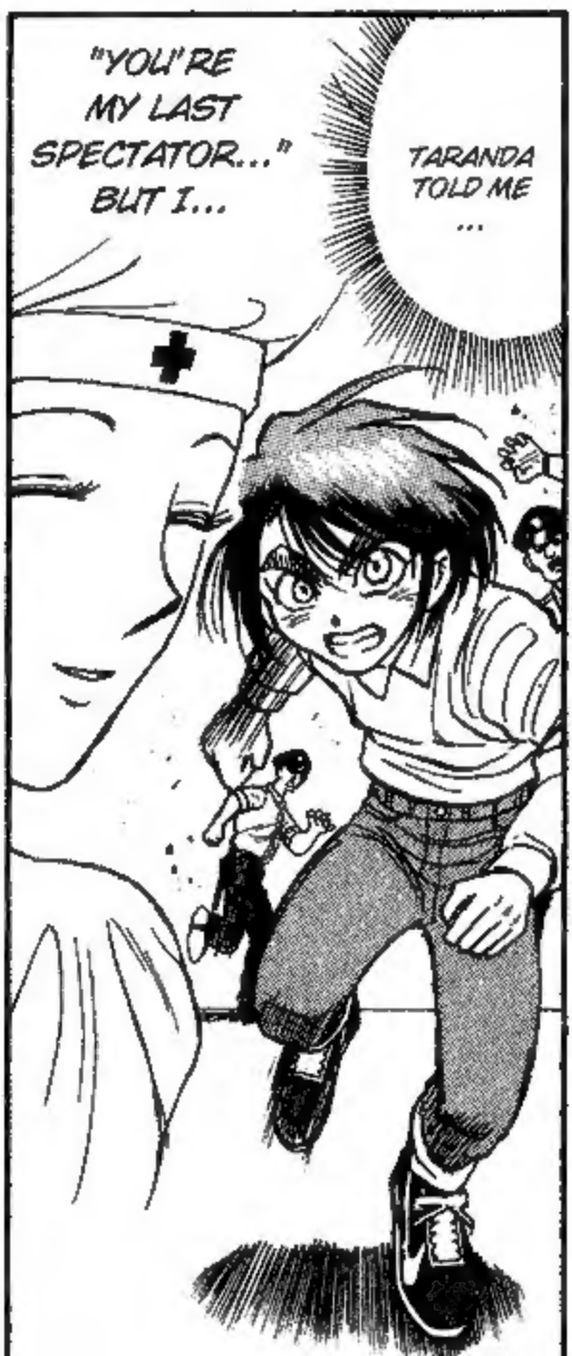


ACT III: CIRCUS * THE TAMER
PART SIX

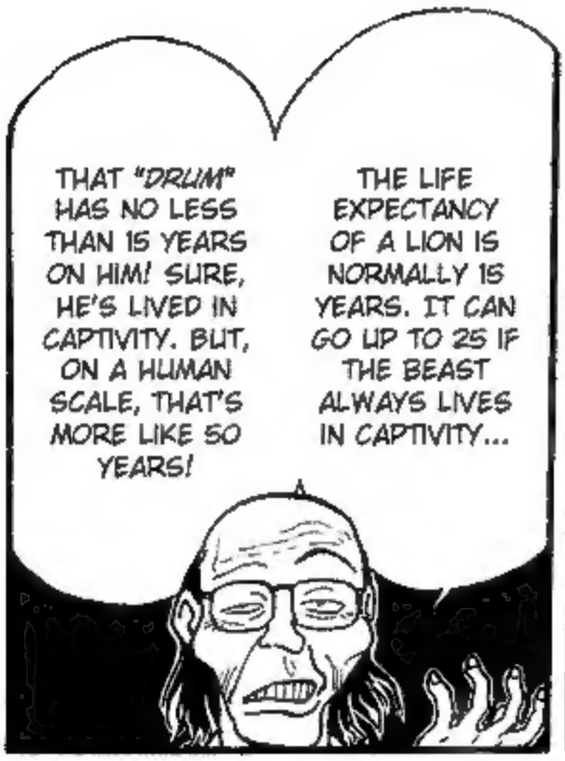
"TARANDA LISELOTTE"





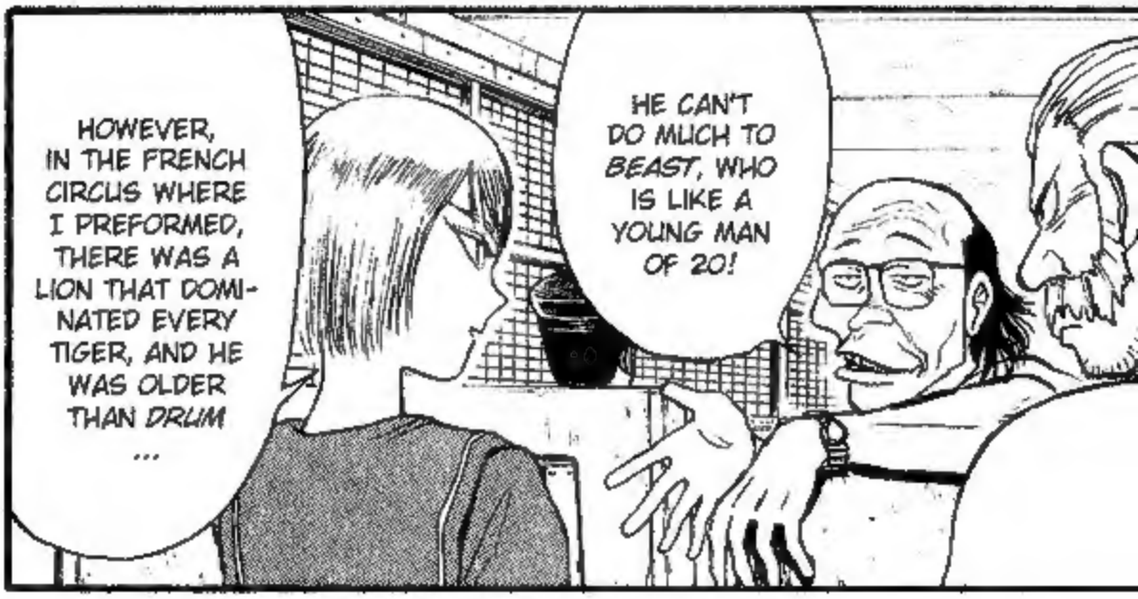
ROAR!!
GRAAH!!
DRUM! ROLL HIM UNDER YOU AND ATTACK WITH YOUR CLAWS!
GRRROOH
CLACK
GAAHH

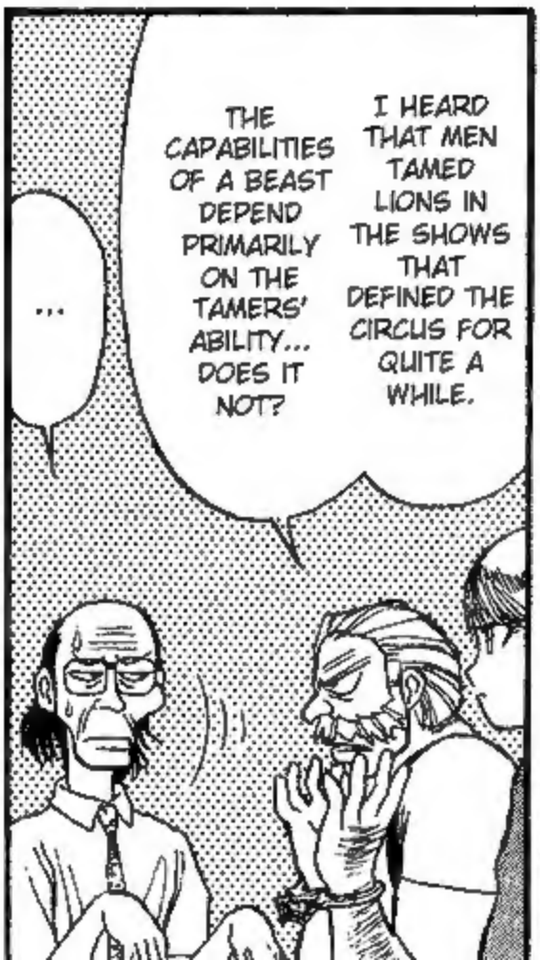
NOW, USE THAT NEEDLE!
GOOD!
BO
MM
SPA
ZZN
SO, THAT GIRL REALLY FOLLOWED THE TIGER INSIDE!
OOH!
THE YOUNG GIRL CHASING HIM HAS GONE IN AS WELL...
BEAST HAS GONE INTO THE MALL.
PIN PON
VR ROOM

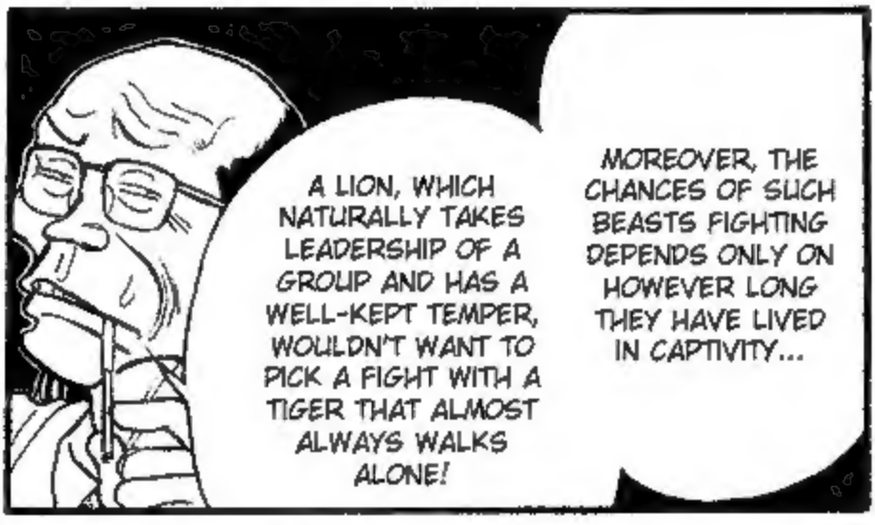

THAT "DRUM" HAS NO LESS THAN 15 YEARS ON HIM! SURE, HE'S LIVED IN CAPTIVITY. BUT, ON A HUMAN SCALE, THAT'S MORE LIKE 50 YEARS!
THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF A LION IS NORMALLY 15 YEARS. IT CAN GO UP TO 25 IF THE BEAST ALWAYS LIVES IN CAPTIVITY...

OH REALLY!? AND I TOLD YOU HER OLD LION WON'T BE ABLE TO BEAT BEAST!!
ARE YOU BLIND, OR WHAT!? WE ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT SHE ONLY CAME TO JAPAN TO AVENGE HER SISTER... BY KILLING THAT TIGER!

...

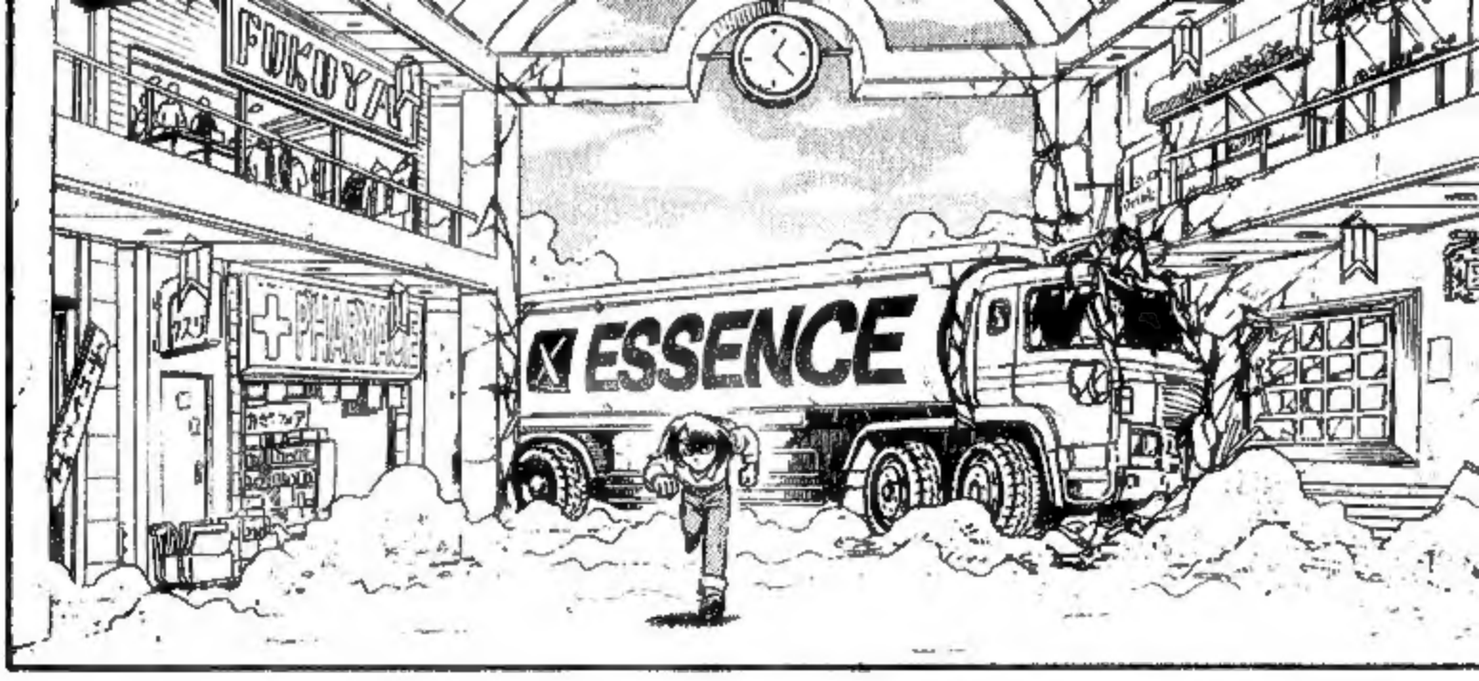

HOWEVER, IN THE FRENCH CIRCUS WHERE I PREFORMED, THERE WAS A LION THAT DOMINATED EVERY TIGER, AND HE WAS OLDER THAN DRUM ...
HE CAN'T DO MUCH TO BEAST, WHO IS LIKE A YOUNG MAN OF 20!

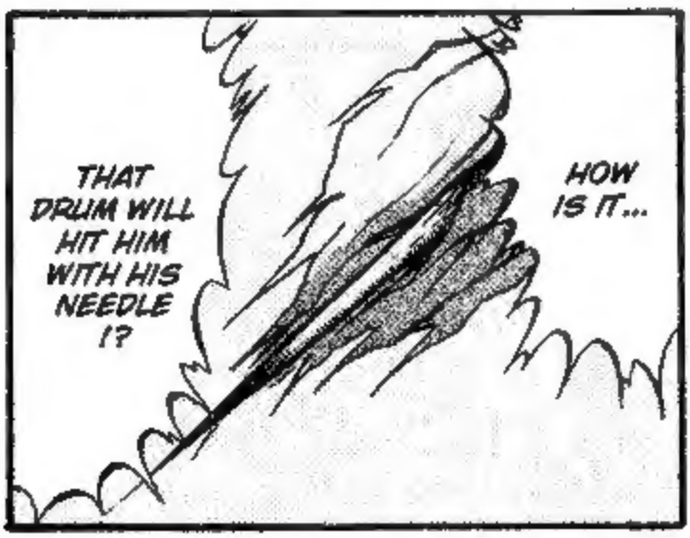

...
THE CAPABILITIES OF A BEAST DEPEND PRIMARILY ON THE TAMERS' ABILITY... DOES IT NOT?
I HEARD THAT MEN TAMED LIONS IN THE SHOWS THAT DEFINED THE CIRCUS FOR QUITE A WHILE.


A LION, WHICH NATURALLY TAKES LEADERSHIP OF A GROUP AND HAS A WELL-KEPT TEMPER, WOULDN'T WANT TO PICK A FIGHT WITH A TIGER THAT ALMOST ALWAYS WALKS ALONE!
MOREOVER, THE CHANCES OF SUCH BEASTS FIGHTING DEPENDS ONLY ON HOWEVER LONG THEY HAVE LIVED IN CAPTIVITY...

HERE, FOR YOUR PLEASURE, ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF THE FAMOUS FIGHTING LIONS OF ANCIENT EGYPT...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ...

BLA
HUH!? WHAT!?
I ALREADY TOLD YOU! I WANT TO SHOW THESE FOOLS THE TRUTH!
BLA
WHY DO WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO THE MALL?
PROFES-SOR! HE HELPED THE GIRL GET AWAY!
HE HE
YOU'RE GOING TO SEE REAL EXPER-TISE, YOU BUNCH OF AMATEURS!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... WE WERE ASKED TO BRING AN ANIMAL SPECIALIST OVER...
IF MY WISH ISN'T GRANTED, LET ME OFF HERE.
OH! OH!
MISS LISELOTTE AND *DRUM* WILL BRING *BEAST'S* END... I HONESTLY THINK SO.
!
MY NOSE!
I'LL WATCH CLOSELY. COUNT ON IT!!
UH...
BAM
MIRACLES ALWAYS HAPPEN!
ME, TOO! IN THE CIRCUS...


FUKOYA
PHARMACY
ESSENCE


THAT DRUM WILL HIT HIM WITH HIS NEEDLE !?
HOW IS IT...

COULDN'T TAKE DOWN BEAST...
TARANDA HAD TO UNDER-STAND THAT DRUM ...

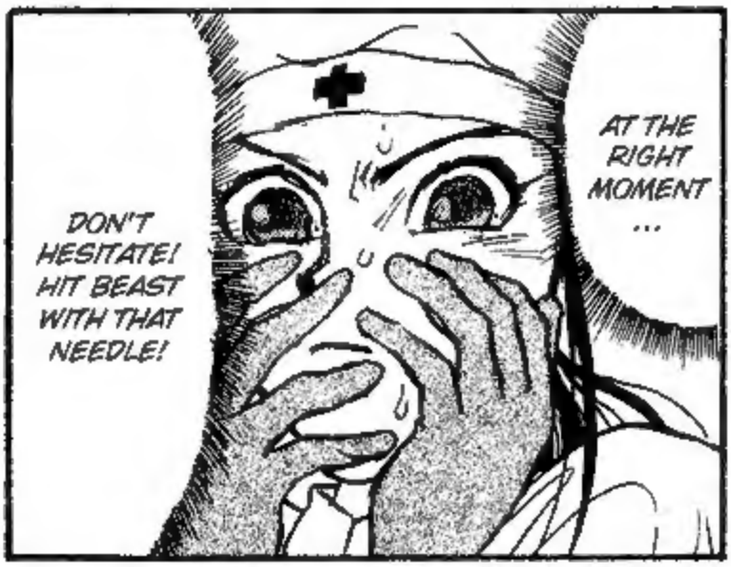
...DIVERT BEAST'S ATTENTION, JUST FOR AN INSTANT!
YOU'D NEED TO...

AND FOR THAT ...
... YES!

HE CAN USE TO BRING BEAST DOWN!
IT'S THE ONLY WEAPON ...

I KNOW WHAT TARANDA WILL TRY TO DO!!
SBLOW
I'M SURE THAT HE WOULD HEAD STRAIGHT FOR ME...
IF HE BRINGS DRUM TO THE GROUND ONE MORE TIME, AND IF I ACT AS IF I WAS IN A PANIC...
I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT!
BEAST ...

KYAAAA!


DON'T HESITATE! HIT BEAST WITH THAT NEEDLE!
AT THE RIGHT MOMENT ...

FORGIVE ME, DRUM... YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROTECT ME...
RRRHH
GHH

I MUST FIRST ALLOW BEAST TO TAKE HIS "PREY." THAT'S THE ONLY TIME WHEN A PREDATOR WILL AVERT HIS ATTENTION.
BUT, FOR THAT ...

DA
AAN!
...TO MY SISTER...
YOU MAY DO TO ME WHAT YOU DID...
I WON'T RESIST YOU...
YOU CAN EAT ME, BEAST...

...IN THE OTHER WORLD...
I HOPE...
HELEN! BIG SISTER ...
YOU WON'T YELL AT ME...

SBLLL

MASARU!
...
WHY!?

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY!
DO YOU REALLY WANT DO DIE!?
SBOM
AFTER ALL, WITHOUT HELEN BY MY SIDE ...
I COULD NEVER DO ANYTHING AT ALL!
TARANDA ...
I REALLY HATED MY SISTER!
RRHH
GROAH

I HATED HER BECAUSE SHE WAS TALENTED IN EVERY-THING, AND WAS ALWAYS AT EASE IN ANY SITUATION!
SHE PUT HERSELF IN CONTROL AND HIT ME...
...ALL THE TIME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? THAT'S COMPLETELY USELESS!
YOU ARE WAY TOO SLOW! YOU SHOULD HAVE PULLED BACK ON THE SECOND BLOW OF THE WHIP!
YOU HAVEN'T MANAGED TO PULL OFF THAT PYRAMID!
YOU THINK YOU CAN SOMEHOW WIN THE FAVOR OF THE PUBLIC? POOR FOOL!
CAN'T YOU EVER DO ANYTHING RIGHT!? LISTEN TO ME ATTENTIVELY WHEN I SAY WHAT TO DO!!
THE MORE SHE HIT ME...
THE MORE THAT INNER HATRED FOR HER GREW...
SO, AS LONG AS SHE LIVED, I'D BE PATHETIC AND USELESS!!

"IF SHE WASN'T HERE, PERSECUTING ME... I'D BE COMPLETELY FREE!"
SHE CONTROLLED EVERY PART OF MY LIFE!! BUT, WITHOUT HER, I NEVER WAS ABLE TO DO ANYTHING IMPRESSIVELY!! OR WELL, EVEN!!
DAH
SHE DIED BECAUSE OF ME!
ONE DAY, MY WISH FINALLY CAME TO BE
FUL-FILLED
HE PERSON-IFIES ALL THE HATE IN THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!!
...A DEMON INCARNATED!
BEAST IS

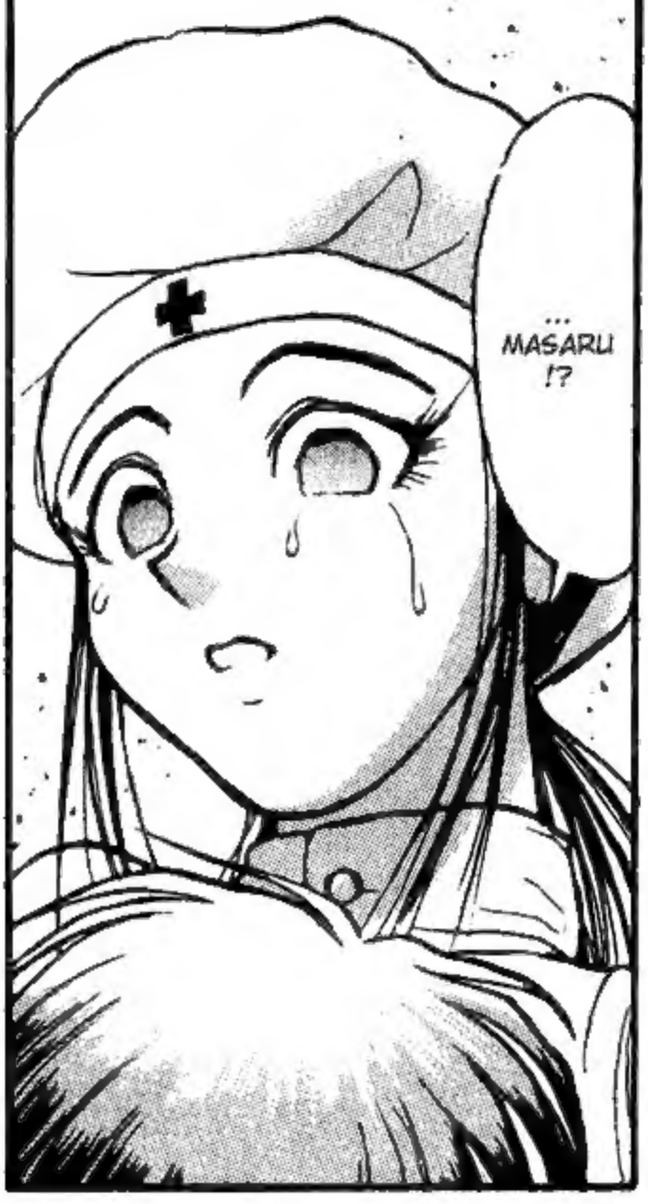
THE EYES OF MY SISTER
STILL WATCH ME. AND TELL ME
SHE'S DEAD BUT I'M STILL NOT FREE
IT'S ODD ISN'T IT?
TA-RANDA
YOU
SAK

"TARANDA
...
...YOU MUST
...
...DO EVERYTHING
...
...TO AVENGE ME..."

SHE DIED IN VAIN, AND I'LL ALWAYS BE HER CAPTIVE UNTIL I'VE DISAPPEARED AS WELL!
ABOVE ALL... JUST BECAUSE I HATE HER...

WE'RE TWIN SISTERS. I CAN'T ESCAPE THAT FACE WHICH IS ALSO MY OWN
IN A MIRROR IT'S ALWAYS HER EYES IN THAT REFLEC-TION

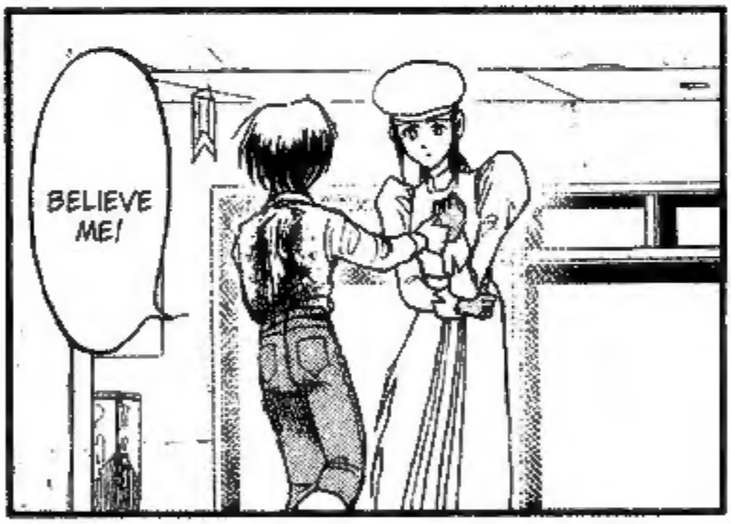
MY MOTHER HAS FALLEN ILL...
DRUM IS THE ONLY ONE THAT LISTENS TO ME...
SINCE SHE DIED ...
I CAN'T CONTROL THE ANIMALS...
TARANDA?"
"ISN'T THAT RIGHT...
"YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT ME!"
I STILL HEAR MY SISTER...
AND I, I CAN'T PROVE MYSELF IN FRONT OF THE SPECTATORS...
I WANT TO DIE AS WELL!
THAT'S THE REASON WHY I'VE CHASED BEAST...
... AT ALL ...
WITHOUT HER, I CAN DO NOTHING ...
HELEN ...
HAD A NATURAL GIFT FOR CONTROLLING ANIMALS... AND PEOPLE TOO.
THAT'S WHAT SHE DID WITH DRUM AND ME...


... MASARU !?

GOOH!

SO MY SISTER WILL KEEP FIGHTING WITH ME...
... IN THE NEXT LIFE ...
GAI
GAI

PEOPLE ...
...DON'T HAVE TO BE USED...
FOR ANY REASON!!


BELIEVE ME!

TARANDA!! I WILL BE THE ONE TO KILL THAT TIGER!!

INSTEAD OF LIVING "HUMBLY," WHERE YOU'RE USED LIKE AN OBJECT... IT'S BETTER TO LIVE AN "AWKWARD" LIFE, WHERE YOU'RE ALWAYS FREE!!

PAAF
C'MERE!
SAY,
YOUR LAST HOUR HAS COME!
HEY, BEAST!
MASARU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!?
VROOM